

Newport Town Council
Meeting minutes
April 16, 2015

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm. All stood for Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Spencer announced that the meeting was compliant with the Delaware Open Meetings Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Commissioner Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Kathy Joseph, Commissioner Michele MacDonald, Town Manager Wendy King and Solicitor Stephen Robinson. Police Chief Michael Capriglione was absent.

Meeting minutes from March 19, 2015, meeting were approved via motion from Mayor Spencer and seconded by Commissioner Michele MacDonald.

Public comment – Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, advised that the 6th Annual DE Kids 5K Run was scheduled for August 21, 2015.

Correspondence – Office of State Planning sent letter and email that our Comprehensive Plan has been approved.

Town Manager King gave her report which included potentially joining the State of Delaware medical plan, business licenses, collecting past due taxes and a collection process for court. Council discussed having a detailed discussion about the medical plan because of the possibility of the state going to a high deductible plan and the fact that Elsmere has opted out. The town needs to be sure we can continue to sustain membership if that is the direction we choose. We also discussed the old court collection process versus obtaining a municipal collector on contract with experience with municipal debt. Commission on amount collected is high, but is it better than not having collected any amount?

Town Manager King report the monthly statistics in Police Chief Capriglione's absence and read the Alderman's Report.

Maintenance Report was presented with no question.

Code Enforcement Report - no questions. Code Officer Walker noted that there had been 100% compliance with all verbal and written notifications. He also brought up the fact that the town does not require a trash receptacle (recycling is supplied by Waste Management). He feels this is

contributing to the town's appearance with trash blowing freely. He offered pricing on two different sized cans and it was questioned whether the residents would mind bearing the cost. Given the tax increase, there would be opposition. This will be discussed further at a later time.

Solicitor Robinson asked if the commission was interested in obtaining a broker to secure the last spot on our tower. Mayor Spencer said they weren't because there are only two more providers who could locate.

Vice Mayor Joswick asked Code Officer Walker about MSDS stickers / oil removal compliance around town with the automotive shops. Walker was aware of requirements. He also made an observation about Sundew Painting trucks parked on Augustine Street. Solicitor Robinson noted a variance being granted to them and they need to be sure they are not violating their variance.

Mayor Spencer noted the idea of changing the name of the industrial park to something less antiquated and more fitting to the reality of the businesses located there. He noted that the maintenance yard looks nice since the slats were taken out of the fence. He would like to arrange a meeting with Trinidad Navarro, NCC Sheriff, to review the process of sale/receipt of town funds through a Sheriff sale.

Budget and Statement of Accounts were reviewed.

Mayor Spencer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Joseph.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.